A Plan for Regulating Commerce Between that Country and the United States.

TRADE WITH MEXICO.

Correspondence of the India napolis Journal PARRAL, Mexico, Dec. 12 -I was talking recently with an intelligent and prominent business man, a native of Mexico, who is earnestly in favor of better and more intimate business relations between this country and the United States. He spoke of the difficulties in the way of creating and promoting trade between the two countries under the state of affairs at present existing. "The onerous tariff duties charged by both governments," he remarked, "are, of themselves, sufficient to prevent extensive imports or exports of the products and manufactures of either republic, while the many severe and possibly unnecessary custom-house regulations, with the barassing delays incident thereto, are very discouraging to merchants and traders of every class. Again, the Mexican dollar, which is the standard of value and the almost universal currency of this country, although containing more pure silver than that of the United States, and thirty grains more than two of your half dollars, is dishonored by your people, and is now discounted 33 to 36 cents, while in other

the Mexican merchant, however much he may desire to handle American goods, is not only deterred from making the attempt, but is also inclined to believe that your country unjustly discriminates against his own in more ways than one. This feeling of unpleasantness-to give it no harsher name-is fostered and encouraged by the French. German and English merchants, who now largely control the trade of this country, and who fully realize how formidable a rival the United States would become if once a fair system of traffic should be established between that country and Mexico." Continuing, my Mexican friend said: "It is a shame that a great nation like that of the United States, which produces in abundance

countries it is accepted at a much smaller dis-

count. Encountering, as he does, all these ex

penses, discounts and delays, it is no wonder

everything necessary to meet the wants of Mexico, and lying within a stone's throw of a people who are willing and able to buy a large share of the present surplus products of their neighbor, paying for the same in solid silver and gold, should be shut off from the coveted opportunity, and that the producers of your country should be denied the privileges of a good and convenient market while they have so much to sell, and be forced, as they often are, to close their factories, or bring distress to many families by reducing their working force for want of purchasers for that they have already produced, instead of having a demand for a still larger pro-

I asked my friend, as one who had given the subject much thought, what remedy he would propose to mitigate or destroy the existing evils. He replied: "At first I was strongly in favor of an extensive reciprocity treaty between the two nations, but the fate of the insignificant arrangement of that kind which was negotiated by General Grant while in this country has almost discouraged me from hoping for any relief from a measure of that nature. The sugar and tobacco planters of the States have fought and probably killed the Grant treaty, and that too, without show of reason. There is but a limited area of Mexican soil adapted to either the culture of sugar or the growing of tobacco, and, even in the most favorable localities, the cost of irrigaion is so great that this country can never be-Cuba in any of the markets of the world. It hardly probable that Mexico, even under the most favorable circumstances, will, within the pext twenty-five years, produce more than enough of these two articles than will be required to meet the demands of her own popula-

"I have thought of another remedy." continued my friend, "but whether it will be looked upon as fessible, and, it so, whether it would meet with any favor from the politicians of your country, is more than I am prepared to say. I start out with the assertion, which I believe to be true, that the farmers, manufacturers and traders in general of the United States now feel an absolute need for a more extended field in which to dispose of their products and their mcrepandise. It is also true, I believe, that the rapid growth of the manufacturing interests of that country, and the marvelous increase in the productions of her soil, have been such as to more than supply the present demand for home consumption and to bring about a stagnation in all her markets. I notice, also, that while the pusiness community is thus crippled because of the restriction of trade to such narrow limits, the general government has, for many years, so wisely managed its affairs that the surplus in the general treasury has constantly increased, until it has now reached immense proportions, and the question of how properly and judiciously to dispose of it is one of the serious problems the rulers are endeavoring to solve. If I am correct in regard to the de-States, arising from overproduction, and correct,

also, as to the inflated condition of the national treasury, then my proposition would be some-thing like this: Let the United States propose to the republic of Mexico to throw open all the ports of her country for the free introduction of all goods, wares, manufactures and agricultural products made and produced in the former country. For this concession let the United States pay to Mexico each year, for five years, a sum equal to the net income for customs duties now received from her frontier ports of entry. This sum would not be alarmingly great, for the reason that, possibly, one-half of the annual collection- is spent in protecting the frontier against American smugglers, thus reducing the net product of the custom-houses to a moderate I asked the gentleman if it would not be haz-

ardous to throw open all the ports of the country for the free introduction of American products! Would not this, I inquired, afford great opportunity, especially at the sea and gulf ports. for the bringing in of goods from countries not entitled to the benefits of free entry? "To throw open all the ports," he replied,

'might possibly afford an opportunity for the shipping in of the products of countries having no right to the privileges conceded to the United States. It might, therefore, be better to have free ports only at those points where railroads pass from one country to the other-say at Paso del Norte, Piedras Negras, Laredo and Nogales. In this way all free goods destined for Mexico would be obliged to pass by rail through quite an extent of American territory, and under proper regulations concerning such chipments, the fraudulent entry of contraband goods could be reduced to the minimum. With this arrangement, continued for the term of five or ten years, commercial relations between the two countries would be fully and firmly established-the people of this county accustomed to the use of American goods and machinery-and no power on earth would then be able to take the trade away."

"At the end of the term of five or ten years of free entry, as proposed by you, what would you further suggest?" was my next query. "Nothing," answered the merchant, "The Mexican government might, at the end of the term fixed upon in the treaty, construct another tariff if it pleased, but the sentiment of the people would demand and secure one of fair provisions, which should contain no discriminations against your people to the benefit of any other nation. It seems to me that the trace of this country naturally and rightfully belongs to the United States. If, for a limited time, it should cost \$15,000,000 a year to secure it, the cost would not be too great. To this country a solid sum of \$15,000,000 is a large sum of money. Mexico, with her treasury in a chronic state of colapse, needs all the revenue that can be legitimately secured. Her people desire your goods. your improved machinery and implements and a portion of your agricultural products if they can be procured upon conditions that are at all favorable. The outlay proposed would be but a tritle to the rich republic of the north. The benefits accraing to her people through the outlay would be incalculable and continuous, for, with the trade once firmly established, its future management could safely be left in the hands of those who so ably control the commerce of the country. It appears to me that if some proposition, such as I have outlined to you, should be presented by authority and in good faith, the whole question of commerce between the two republics might be readily adjusted to the profit of your people, and to

the comfort and convenience of our own." "As you are aware," said the merchant, "I am not a citizen of the United States, but I greatly admire that country that has made such conerant and rapid progress, and affords such grand opportunities and such great encouragement, not only to her own people of every class, but to those of every other nation as well. There can be no question in the minds of observing men as to the position she is soon to assume among the strong commercial nations of the world. A consideration of these facts makes me the more desirous for the most intimate business and social relations between the two republics, as I am convinced that such an intimacy would infuse into my own countrymen some of the energy of the people of the north. That the people of other manufacturing countries are confident that, under the javorable conditions now existing, the United States will become a midable rival as an exporting nation, is eviat from the opinions of their business men,

and the expressions of the public press. In a recent number of a leading English journal, I noticed an article which claimed that the educated mechanics of the United States were rapidly bringing their mechanical inventions to that state of perfection that they would soon lead the world in the manufacture of machinery and in the production of cutlery, watches, printing-presses and various other articles, which have heretofore been best produced in other countries, and closed with the prediction that if the manufacturers of England did not adopt a more aggressive policy of trade they would soon find that the Yankee bad shut

them out of every extensive and profitable mar-The foregoing is, in substance, the ideas expressed and the plans suggested by an intelligent Mexican merchant of high financial position and of large experience in commercial af-fairs, for the building up of trade between this country and the United States. I give them as they were given to me, and trust that if they come to the notice of those who are to shape the legislation of our country, or of any others competent to pass judgment upon them, they may receive that attention to which they are entitled, if, indeed, they be worthy of any attention whatever. A great struggle for the control of the trade of Mexico is now going on. The influence of every other nation is against the United States, for the reason that if the latter country can once get control she has advantages of proximity and speedy transporta-

To secure control is now the object, and in order that the manufacturers and producers of the United States may be given an advantage through which they can obtain an invincible position in this country, it is necessary that a treaty of amily and commerce between the two countries be consummated at the earliest possible day. Strange as it may appear, there is no such treaty in existence at the present time. Such has been the indifference of our officials that the old treaty was allowed to lapse by limitation, and, apparently, no effort has been made to revive it or to make a new one. Certain it is that the manufacturers and

farmers of the United States need a wider field in which to dispose of their products. The most accessible and a very promising field for an extension of trade is to be found in Mexico. The Christmas Bells.

The chimes ring through the silent air
"Good will—good will—good will—
Let evil through the whole earth cease, Let kindliness prevail, and peace.

And hatred's tongues of strife be still." Far out across the city's roofs
The sweet steam floats from spire to spire,

Blent with the organ's swelling psalm.

The voice of chanting priest and choir. A little child wakes out of sleep, The fire upon the hearth burns low.

She sighs to hear the cruel winds That bring the bitter frost and snow. Her shrunken face is gaunt and pale, Her baby hands with toil are seamed. She whispers: "Tis the Christmas belis;

"But happy children hear them not. In their white beds so sound they sleep-Those who are never tired and who For pain and hunger never weep.

I heard them even while I dreamed.

"And 'tis to them the Christ-child comes, To them who do not wake to see The gifts that he will bring to-night-I wonder will He think of me!

"Perhaps He cannot find me here.

And will not climb the crooked stair, So long and steep, and yet they say Those whom He loves are everywhere."

Those whom He loves are everywhere: And while she slept again there came One with a blessing, who fears not To seek the baunts of want and shame. -Mary H. Krout. Riley and Nye.

Jeems Whitcomb Rilay's been down South, Erlong with Billy Nye, And Bill made lots of fun for us, While Jeems he made us cry.

But it wasn't no sich crying As Yankees used to bring. It was kinder soft and tender Like songs we love to sing.

We feel much better since they come, With their pathos and their 'un, It's a better way to meet us, Than to bring erlong a gun

Jeems seems so kind and tender, Without a spark of guile, When he told of "Orphant Annie," A little homeless child.

And all our hearts went out to him-The wimin and the men-And latch-strings hang outside the door For him and all his kin.

Then let 'em roll, and let 'em come,

All Yankees of this kin'. It makes us brothers once again And wipes out Dixon's line. -Plunkett, in Atlanta Constitution. Prophecy.

When winter comes-"But winter comes no more-For us no more; our summer fills the year!" Such words she used to charm my hovering fear, Not knowing what the near time held in store.

Half true, half idle, were the words she spake. Anon, with all the season's subtle sweet, She sank where summer leaf and bloom retreat. With old-time autumn drift their place to take.

The winter came-but came alone to me-Its icy lances hurling far and wide; And now, fast blotted by the snow's full tide. Her delved home I may no longer see.

But when the long, wild wind sweeps past my door, And dies in music, then I seem to hear The voice beloved that sometime charmed my fear. 'The winter comes no more-for us no more!'

> -Edith M. Thomas. Mora at Nazareth.

I think I see Him now at morn Before the burst of sudden day, Above the silver fields of corn. Where He has gone apart to pray: think I see tiim looking thoughtful down Beyond the corn, beyond the waking town.

Beyond the silver'd mists that rise From all-night toiling in the corn. The mists have duties up the skies, The skies have duties down the morn. While all the world is full of earnest care To make the fair world still more wondrous fair-

More lordly fair; the stately morn Moves down her walks of golden wheat, Her guards of honor gild the corn In golden pathway for God's feet; Her purpled hills she crowns in crowns of gold, And majesty before the Lord is rolled! - Josquin Miller, in the Independent.

Thee. The violet loves a sunny bank. The cowslip loves the lea. The scarlet creeper loves the elm; But I love-thee!

The sunshine kisses mount and vale. The stars they kiss the sea, The west winds kiss the clover blooms:

But I kiss-thee! The oriole weds his mottled mate. The lily's bride o' the bee; Heaven's marriage-ring is round the earth;

Shall I wed-thee! -Bayard Taylor. She Wouldn't Reveal Her Age.

There appears to have been no lack of humorous incidents attending the registration of the women voters here in Boston. The latest story comes from the headquarters of the registrars, and may be accepted as entirely authentic. A large number of the women seem to have been exceedingly annoyed at being obliged to give their age to the registrars, and in a number of cases they forfeited their right to vote rather than to state how old they were. In one instance a spinster gave her age as "twenty one plus." "What do you mean by twenty-one plus!" inquired the registrar. "I mean, sir, that I am over twenty-one," was the tart reply. "We cannot allow any of that nonsense here," said the official. "You must give your exact age if you desire to be registered." This she persistently de-

Effect of Colors Upon Maniaes.

on the voting list.

clined to do, and consequently her name is not

An Italian physician has lately made some interesting experiments in the treatment of insane patients by means of colors. He shut a rabid maniac in a blue room, who after several hours of this azure confinement grew perfectly calm and presented an appearance of the most complete beatitude. It is a bit curious how a mentally diseased person, after seclusion in a blue room, is able to regard everything as coleur de ross.

First Catch Your White Caps.

There are crimes which make the whippingpost an aid to civilization. It is the sovereign remedy for wife-beating. And what, for example, could be so excellent a punishment for the infamous White Caps as a dose of their own medicine, well laid on and publicly adminis-

Bad Complexions Need CHAMPLIN'S LIQUID PEAR L. 50c.

A lovely, harmless, beautifying application.

RELIGIOUS MISCELLANY.

A Christmas Hymn. O strange indifference, low and high, Drowsed over common joys and cares; The earth was still but knew not why,

The world was listening, unawares. How calm a moment may precede
One that shall thrill the world forever! To that still moment none would heed, Man's doom was linked no more to sever, In the solean midnight,

Centuries ago. It is the calm and solemn night!

A thousand bells ring out, and throw Their joyous peals abroad, and smite The darkness—charmed and hely now! The night that erst no name had worn, To it a happy name is given;

For in that stable lay, new-born, The peaceful Prince of earth and heaven, In the solemn midnight,

-Alfred Dommett.

Sunday-School Lesson for Dec. 30, 1888. LESSONS IN JOSHUA, JUDGES AND RUTH. We would suggest that an interesting and instructive review of the twelve lessons could be presented by four persons speaking on the four

Centuries ago!

topics here indicated. Let each subject be illustrated by the history given in the different 1. The Crossing of the Jordan used to illustrate the subject of conversion and the change from the old life to the new. 2. The Conquest of Jericho and the cities of

the land illustrates the work that follows con-

version, when our duty is to subdue the habits

of the old man and to possess the land with new habits and with new life. 3. The story of God's faithfulness to His word illustrated. It should be first an encouragement, and secondly a warning. He was both true to His promises and faithful to His threat-

4. Religion in daily life illustrated by the lives of Naomi and Ruth. Faith, Hope, Love, Obedience, Fidelity, Sweetness and Light. TOPICS AND GOLDEN TEXT. LESSON I-The Commission of Joshua .- Josh. i

-9. Golden text: Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breast-plate of righteousness.—Eph. vi, 14. LESSON II—Crossing the Jordan.—Josh. iii. 5-7. Golden text: When thou passeth through the waters, will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not averflow thee .- Isa. xliii, 2. LESSON III-Stones of Memorial.-Josh. iv. 10-24. Golden text: Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.

—Josh iv. 22.

LESSON IV-The Fall of Jericho.-Josh. vi. 1-16. Golden text: By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were compassed about seven days.-Heb. LESSON V-Defeat at Ai.-Josh. vii, 1-12. Golden text: Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not

to covetousness .- Pea. cxix. 36. LESSON VI-Caleb's Inheritance. - Josh. xiv. 5-16. Golden text: Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thon dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. -Psa. xxxvii, 3.
LESSON VII-Helping One Another.—Josh. xxi, 43-45: xxii, 1-9. Golden text: Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.—Gal. vi, 2. LESSON VIII-The Covenant Renewed .- Josh. xxiv,

LESSON VIII—The Covenant Renewed.—Josh. xxiv, 19-28. Golden text: The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.—Josh. xxiv, 24.

LESSON IX—Israel Under Judges.—Judg. ii, 11-23. Golden text: Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.—Heb. iii, 12.

LESSON X—Gideon's Army.—Judg. vii, 1-8. Golden text: Not by might, nor by power, but my Golden text: Not by might, nor by power, but my Spirit saith the Lord of hosts.—Zech. iv, 6. LESSON XI-Death of Samson.-Judga xvi, 21 Golden text: Great men are not always wise. -Job xxxii, 9. LESSON XII—Ruth's Choice.—Ruth i, 16-22. Golden text: Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.—Ruth i, 16.

> Temperance Lesson. Num. vi. 1-4.

1. The Lord spake, the command of God sanctifies this special service unto Moses, the chosen and honored leader of the people. 2. The children of Israel, for it concerns the

entire nation, either man or woman, for women may need it as well as men. It was both personal and voluntary. Anyone moved by ardent love to God might make this special consecration. Separate themselves from the multitude; the vow of the Nazarite (atrictly Nazirite), one set apart either by his own act or by others to peculiar and eminent service for God. "The notion of something extraordinary, doing something more than others, is more than implied. It is expressed in the verb in this sense."— Lange. It is the same word as is used in the making of a singular vow (Lev. xxvii, 2). Unto the Lord; it was first, middle and last a relig-ious devoting of the entire being unto God. This is the key-note. The outcome of it all was that the soul might be drawn nearer to God. Wine and strong drink, wine of any kind made from any and every kind of fruit, is for-bidden. Strong drink, mixed and mingled drinks, made worse by adding other things (Prov. xxxiii, 29, 30; Isa. v, 11, 22). Vinegar of wine, the acid fermentation, the sour wine (Ruth ii, 14; Matt. xxvii, 48). Any liquor of grapes, "grape-skins steeped in water after the juice is pressed out."—Bush. Nor eat moist grapes, or dried, not even the grapes just fresh

from the vine, or when preserved could be 4. All the days of his separation, the vow might be for life, as with Samuel and John the Baptist, or for a limited time, as indicated in verses 13-21. The rabbis say the vow could not be taken for less than thirty days. Nothing that is made of the vine tree, things not dangerous in themselves may be wisely forbidden, lest we be led into temptation. Whenever possible we must avoid even the appearance of evil. The added restrictions of verses 5-8 bring the Nazarite into line with the high priest in point of solemnity and eacredness of his position, and show most clearly that this vow was expected to sanctify everyone who was set apart by it.

Personal and News Notes. The Pope characterizes the British and Foreign and American Bible societies as "moral

Mr. John Wanamaker is at the head of a movement to organize a great Presbyterian club | being committed to it, and only minor details re-

ment of 511,000 pupils. Twenty-two members of the Northern Bap-

tist Church, of Minneapolis, Minn., have been dismissed for professing belief in faith cure. The church at Shaker Village, Canterbury, N. H., was built in 1792, and has never been reshingled. The shingles were of heart pine, fastened on with wooden pegs.

Dr. Lyman Abbott has begun a course of Sunday-evening discourses on the life of Christ, in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. They are to be published weekly in London. Southern and Northern Baptists are endeavoring to bring about an adjustment of differen-

ces that now exist between the missionary and publication societies of the two sections. In Mexico the word God does not appear in the constitution or laws. Consequently, a constitutional protest which is equivalent to the oath of office is used at an installation.

The American Protestant Episcopal Church of the Holy Ghost, in Nice, was consecrated last Thursday by Bishop Lyman. Two hundred and fifty Americans and Englishmen attended

We cannot have too much of the thinking which deepens, clarifies and expands life; we have already had too much of the thinking which assumes to reveal the universe to the minds of men.-Christian Union.

Until quite recently no blacksmith in the north of England would drive a nail on Friday, the anniversary of the crucifixion, and no edged tool was used in Yorkshire, nor was it anything but unlucky to wash clothes on that day.

The Jewish Messenger, speaking of the monstrous condition of things which now prevails in the State prisons of New York, savs: "If Satan finds work for idle hands to do, it is not agreable to contemplate the future of idle convicts." The Hebrew congregations of New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia are called upon to offer free-will contributions for the purpose of employing a chaplain to have charge of the Jewish prisoners in the prisons of those States, who shall visit them regularly.

The Philadelphia Presbytery is discussing the project of establishing an order of deaconesses a the Presbyterian Church. The General Council of the Reformed Presbyterian Communions, at its meeting of 1888, in London, recommended the appointment and use of deaconesses. It is stated that American Catholic bishops have petitioned the Congregation del Propaganda Fide against the predominant influence exercised by German Catholics in America. They urge upon the Vatican that it is advisable not to permit the formation of separate German parishes or the nomination of German dignitaries.

The Synod of Missouri, belonging to the Southern Presbyterian Church, at its late meeting declared that in its opinion the action of the Southern General Assembly, at Baltimore, declining further negotiations touching the union of the church North and South was not "for the best interests of Presbyterian Christianity in Missouri and in the country at large."

A personal friend of the Nev. Dr. George W. Field, of Baugor, says he is a very absentminded man, and that when on the street, in the cars, or even at his dinner, his mind is often so fully concentrated upon the subject of sermons that he takes no notice of surrounding circumstances. At one time, traveling between Bangor and Boston, as the conductor of the Field, the reverend gentleman looked into his I spring be planted a peck of the large Western I his family.

face a moment, then extended his hand and said: "Good afternoon, sir; but I think you have a little advantage of me. What name,

He who rejects the truth because it is in conflict with his practice, and hence condemns him, would be a much wiser man if he would accept the truth and correct the practice. The rejection for this reason does not make the truth untrue, or lessen its importance; but it does destroy its power to bring a spiritual benefit to the soul.—New York Independent.

The Week of Prayer will be Jan. 6-13. The topics suggested by the Evangelical Alliance are: Monday, Jan. 7, "Thanksgiving and Confession;" Tuesday, "the Holy Spirit;" Wednesday, "The Family and the Church;" Thursday, "Reforms;" Friday, "Missions;" Saturday, "Na-Jan. 6. from Isaiah lx. 1. Romans xiii, 14. John xv. 5. Philippians iv. 13; and for Sunday, Jan. 13, from I Corinthians iii, 9, and xv, 58.

Rev. W. M. Taylor, D. D., of New York, is the latest clergyman of note to enter the lists in the pulpit manuscript debate. He treats the whole subject with great fairness, but indicates his own decided preference for what he calls "preaching through, rather than preaching from a manuscript." The distinction which the emment divine makes is that preaching from a manuscript means reading, while preaching through a manuscript means using it in the pulpit as a guide to the utterance of that which has been first transferred from heart and brain to paper, and then transferred back again from paper to heart and brain.

The forces of evangelical Protestantism in this country, by the most recent computation, con-sist of 107,200 churches, 82,723 ministers and 11,869,000 members. In the number of churches the Baptist denomination surpasses all others, but in point of clerical force and membership the Methodist Church stands first. The membership of the evangelical Protestant churches in 1800 was one in fifteen of the population, in 1850 one in seven, in 1870 one in six, in 1880 one in five, and now it is one in 4.5. Since 1880 these churches have contributed to foreign missions \$75,000,000, to home missions \$100,000,000, to religious publishing houses \$150,000,000. They build ten new churches every working day. In their colleges, in 1884, they had 79 per cent. of all college students. There are 18,419,961 Sabbath-school scholars in the world, of which the United States have nearly one-half. There are 1,240 Young Men's Christian Associations, with a membership of 180,000 and property worth 7,262,000, in the United States.

Sometimes glimpses on my signt. Through present wrong, the eternal right; And, step by step, since time began, I see the steady gain of man. -Whittier.

How eweet a life was his: how sweet a death! Living, to wing with mirth the weary hours, Or with romantie tales the heart to cheer; Dying, to leave a memory like the breath Of summers full of sunshine and of showers, A grief and gladness in the atmosphere.

O striving soul, strive quietly, Whate'er thou art or dost; Sweetest the strain when in the song The singer has been lost; Truest the work when 'tis the deed. Not doer, counts for most. -- Elizabeth Stuart Pholps.

Lord, keep my eyes fast fixed on Heaven, My feet keep firm upon the rock; Let not my faith grow faint nor faiter For chastening scourge nor sorrow's shock. Nor let the world's enticing pleasures Come e'er between my heart and Thee-

Let all of Time's allurements vanish, So I but gain eternity. -Susie M. Best. A STORY ABOUT "BOB" INGERSOLL. It Is Said He Backed Out of a Debate with

Bishop Spaiding. Much interest was taken yesterday by Chicago Catholics in the honors to Bishop Spalding at Peoria, and in the general talk about him some well-authenticated gossip heretofore unpub-lished came to light that puts in a curious position a distinguished fellow-townsman of the Bishop—one who in burlesque at least has even greater ecclesiastical distiction—Col. "Pope Bob" Ingersoll. According to the report the great infidel is in the attitude of hiding behind his wife's skirts after challenging Bishop Spalding to public combat. That the scrimmage was not to be with rapiers, pistole, or fists, but an intellectual fight to a finish in attack and defense of religion, gives to people who know both the Bishop and Colonel added zest to the incident. This is particularly true in Peoria. where each of the two celebrities has resided for years. The facts are given on the authority of the pastor of one of the largest churches in Chicago, whose name cambe furnished if neces-

The queer affair began some weeks ago, when the scholarly, placid-lived Bishop was startled by receiving a communication from the editor of the Forum magazine asking whether Dr. Spalding was willing to meet in open discussion as a champion of religion the doughty Colonel whose name has become a synonym for active infidelity. To say that the gentle Bishop was surprised is to state the situation mildly in the extreme. So far as can be learned, it was not altogether clear at the moment as to whether a purely literary contest was meant, or the picturesque sights that would be afforded by a series of actual meetings on the same platform of the keen, ascetic, purple robed ecclesiastic, and the rollicking, deshing, military Ingersoll. Two more magnificent representatives of strangely opposite eloquence and presence would be hard to find, and the chances are that a simultaneous appearance of the two before an audience in some great hall was to some extent contemplated. Certain it is that Bishop Spalding was ready and willing to meet Colonel Ingersell more than half way, and so replied to the editor of the Forum.

Messages passed back and forward between the two sides, and it is known definitely that the contest was fully agreed upon, both sides t Philadelphia.

There are 3,000 Roman Catholic parochial Negotiations were broken off on behalf of Col. Ingersoll entirely without warning sudden and inglorious termination of the affair came, it is understood, in the shape of a curt telegram to Bishop Spalding, stating that Col. Ingersoll's wife was opposed to her husdand's appearance at this time in the manner proposed. Nothing further was done by either side, and the few persons who knew the circumstances have been busy drawing inferences ever since.

Ingersoil Says He Never Backed Out.

New York Special. Col. Robert G. Ingersoll was indignant to-day when he read the Chicago dispatch telling of the stories in circulation there among good church people that several weeks ago the editor of the Forum had written to Bishop Spalding of Peoria asking him to meet Colonel Ingersoll in open discussion in the pages of that magazine. The story went on to tell how Bishop Spalding was much surprised, but consented; how messages passed between the two sides and all the terms of the contest were arranged; how all of a sudden the pecotiations on behalf of Colonel Ingersoll were broken off by a curt telegram saying Colonel Ingersoll's wife was opposed to her husband engaging in such a discussion, and how the good church people said the great disbeliever was afraid of the great ecclesiastic and used his wife as an

It was with unusual sharpness in his voice that the Colonel said: "There is no truth in the statement. The editor of the Forum will know whether any discussion was about to take place in that magazine. The story probably grew out of an effort on the part of Courtlands Palmer to have a discussion in the Nineteenth Century Club between Bishop Spalding and myself. Nothing ever came of it, however." "Are you ready to enter into a discussion

with the Bishop!" "If Bishop Spalding really wishes to give his views I think that the editor of the North American Review will give him the space he desires, and I could reply if necessary." Mr. Lorettus S. Metcalf, editor of the Forum, said he had sent no such letter as that described in the dispatch, nor did he wish to have such a discussion in his magazine.

Patti Wants a Red Ribbon.

London World. There is no such thing as disinterestedness among theatrical and operatic artists. Why, has been asked, should Mme. Patti, who has millions in her throat, sell her musical vibrations for 500 francs a night in Paris when she can get five times as much at Rio! Why let the voice be quoted under par! The story is that she hopes to be rewarded by the ribbon of the Legion of Honor, and this was the great temptation that MM. Ritt, Gaithard and Gounod held out to her. The pretext for giving her the cross would be her singing in the grand Franco-Russian fete to be given shortly. Patti, Chevaliere de la Legion d'Honneur, is too funny.

A Little Georgia Girl's Farming. Atlanta Constitution. The Albany News and Advertiser illustrates the value and fertility of Georgia farming lands by relating the experience of a little girl, the daughter of Mr. E. L. Girdner, manager of the Kaufman Lumber Company, at Poulan. Mr. Girdner came to Georgia eighteen months ago. and is now willing to indorse everything that

"The air bites shrewdly. It is a nipping and an eager air."—Shakspeare.

cold streak with a sentiment. We propose something more practical. Our proposition is to fit the

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peanuts for his little girl, from which she gathered ten bushels of very fine peas. The little girl, however, not content with her groundpea crop, planted 100 stalks of sugar cane. The result was a magnificent crop of sugar cane, which, after reserving enough for home consumption, was sold for \$15. With this sum, together with the profits of her peanut crop, the little girl has bought five and a baif acres of as good land as that on which the crops were grown, and she has enough money left to fance the most of her land. The fertilizers used in making the little girl's crops cost no more than 50 cents, and very little work was necessary.

He Only Sat on One.

Washington Post. "Daniel," remarked the President, yesterday, with a sly twinkie in his eye and a gurgling chuckle in his bosom.

"Yes, sire," responded Daniel, pleasantly. "It has been some time since the election. but a good thing never grows old. "Sire," inquired Daniel, in astonishment, "do you mean to say the election was-" "Tut, tut, Daniel, let that go," interrupted the President. "It's a conundrum I'm talking

"What is it, sire?" asked Daniel, in evident "What is the difference, Daniel, between me and the city of Rome! "Give it up, sire," said Daniel, after a minute

or two of profound reflection. "What is it?" "It is this, Daniel, and the President laughed in reminiscent glee: "Rome sat on her seven Hills, and I only sat on one." Again the President laughed, but Daniel questioningly shook his head and signed.

Pretty and Useful.

Philadelphia Press. After Christmas the young girl will wear a new sort of chatelaine. It is a chatelaine of ribbons, grandmother used to wear it, and of a snowy afternoon in winter when a caller comes to the fireside it will give the young girl a charming domestic air. It is meant for a house gown accessory, a bit of picturesqueness, for decorative effect only, though it may be put to its old time uses if any young girl should be so prosaically minded as to think on plain sewing. It should match the house gown in color, and be fastened to the belt. It has five long pendants of inch-wide ribbon, painted with birds or butterflies, feather stitched with flloss or left plain. Scissors weight one streamer, needlebook hangs from one, pinball from a third. An English walnut makes a nest for the thimble at the end of the fourth ribbon, and dress artists differ as to what should go upon the fifth.

Two Royal Youngsters. London World.

The King of Spain has just begun his education, which has been confided to an English lady, Miss Davenport. He is a very strong boy, ugly, but bright and good-tempered. He refused to allow his English nurse to be sent away, and though, for a king, he is allowed very little of his own way, his mother relented when she saw the grief with which the little man viewed the separation. The young Crown Prince of Germany has also begun his education, though it is the military, not the intellectual, part of it. He is drilled daily by a sergeant of the Royal can be said in favor of Georgia, so far as its | Guard, and is a sharp, emert little fellow, likes train, passing through the car, came to Dr. | agricultural possibilities are concerned. Last | his drill, and learns it with all the aptitude of



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